

# THE RIO NEWS.

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## OFFICIAL DIRECTORY

AMERICAN LEGATION.—22, Rua do Marquês d'Avares  
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Minister.

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## FORTY YEARS.

The trip which the Emperor has just taken through the province of Minas Geraes, following that of last year into the interior of Paraná, has unquestionably raised some doubts in his mind as to the progress of this empire during his long reign of forty years. It is unfortunate perhaps that his first trips through these provinces should have occurred in the closing hours of so long and so peaceful a reign, and that the practical results of that reign should be brought to his attention at a time when it is almost too late to retrieve the errors which have been made.

In visiting the province of Paraná, his first introduction was to the little village, by courtesy a city, of Paranaguá, whose crumbling walls, deserted buildings and grass-grown streets told the sad story of decadence and ruin. Standing at the entrance of one of the most beautiful bays of the world, and at the gates of a province possessing great natural wealth and a genial climate, it should have told another story. Its streets should have been alive with trade and industry, and its port should have been filled with the white sails of all nations. Instead there was nothing to be seen but the ruins of a more active and prosperous era, the apathy and neglect and stagnation of the present.

Going into the interior, his majesty found nothing but wretched roads, neglected dwelling places and a poor, apathetic population. He saw everywhere the decaying signs of past prosperity, even to the totally deserted sites of populous villages. And he saw around him a people who had lost all independence of character, and who looked helplessly to the imperial and provincial governments for even the most ordinary services belonging to their every-day community life.

During his recent visit into the interior of Minas Geraes the same general aspect of decadence and retrogression met his gaze. He saw the lack of public spirit, the total want of individual character and enterprise. Although broken by mountain ranges and covered with extensive tracts of sterile land, he found a great province full of mineral wealth, traversed by fertile river valleys capable of producing the greatest variety of products, and a climate surpassed by but few localities in the world. And yet, the same general appearance of decay met him almost at every step. The roads are no better, if as good, as they were in colonial times, one hundred years ago. The plantation houses of colonial times still stand, but around them the land lies sterile and abandoned, or half cultivated by slaves. The towns along the roads into the mining districts are now but the melancholy reminders of those early days when their streets were full of life and business activity. As the Emperor rode through them he must have seen the deserted shops on whose crumbling thresholds the grass has grown for years; he must have seen through broken shutters the mouldy, decaying interior of many a desolate house from which all life and hope died out in years long since passed; he must have seen the grass-grown streets which

are deserted and lifeless except when some blaring political parade or some mediæval religious procession comes winding through them; he must have seen the degradation of their people into whose lives no ambition nor noble impulse ever comes, who toil neither for self nor country, and who live in idleness, squalor, and crime. And with all this, he must have seen the signs of another civilization and another industrial life which ceased to exist years ago, and whose ruins now lie scattered about him.

Within these forty years of his reign there has been an almost unbroken peace. The world has been steadily growing in wealth, and in its instruments for acquiring wealth. The advancement of civilization has developed better systems of government, purer systems of religion, higher systems of education, and nobler types of individual character. And yet, throughout every province of this empire except one, there are seen the melancholy signs of industrial decadence. As in the provinces of Minas Geraes and Paraná so too in those others of the north are seen the mould of stagnation and decay. The ruins of another civilization are found even where the ceaseless streams of trade are flowing in and out. In the very vicinity of the imperial capital can be found the remains of agricultural industries which are to-day unknown; and within a distance of fifteen miles can be found a large town, better built than the majority of its neighbors, which is to-day half deserted and in ruins. Instead of a young country just entering into the community of nations with all the vigor of fresh blood and new life, the empire of Brazil shows all the decrepitude and decay of old age. It can not be an agreeable sight to an Emperor whose personal ambitions and aspirations are of so high a character, but the waving of flags and bursting of fireworks can not hide the melancholy sight, and he must now see that there has been some elements in his reign which have not been in harmony with the progress of the age.

It is true that within the past forty years the population of this empire has been doubled and that her foreign commerce has been increased nearly twenty fold. It is true that her political position among the nations of the world is far higher than then, and that the Emperor has won a high place among their sovereigns. It is true that railways have been built and telegraph lines erected, and that a few leading cities possess many of the instrumentalities which characterize a high state of civilization. But at the same time industry has been narrowed into a very few channels, the bulk of foreign commerce passes through the hands of strangers who absorb the profits, and the revenue of the country has been increased from sixteen thousand to one hundred and ten thousand contos, or an increase of seven fold in taxation. These results have not come in with the winds and the rains, nor have they sprung from the soil. They are the outgrowth of institutions which have been nourished and protected at the expense of the nation, until like parasitic plants they enrich the sturdy trunk that has upheld them.

What these institutions are, and what to do with them, must now be the problem in the closing years of a half century's reign. The blight of slavery rests upon the productive industries of the entire nation, and it must be removed. The iron hand of the Roman church rests upon the people, and it, too, must be removed. The wasteful and repressive system of bureaucratic government, centering in the imperial capital, weighs upon the political and industrial development of the whole empire, and it also must be changed. Many opportunities have been lost in these forty years to reform these evils and to build up this empire on a more substantial and lasting foundation, and the empire has unquestionably lost many an opportunity to take a higher rank among the nations of the world. The evils have now outgrown any casual opportunity to crush them and their results are apparent to every eye. It is not an easy task to retrace one's steps and to begin one's work anew, but from that there is now no alternative.

## CANADIAN SUBSIDIES.

At a meeting of the Canadian House of Commons on March 8th, Sir John A. Macdonald stated that the Brazilian government had formally granted a fifty-thousand-dollar subsidy to a line of steamers which is to ply between Canada and Brazil, a similar amount having been placed in the estimates before the House for that purpose as a subsidy from the Canadian government. A company has been formed in London for providing a monthly steamship service between Montreal and Brazilian ports. It is named the "Canadian and Brazilian Direct Mail Steamship Company," with a capital of £280,000. It proposes to run four steamships of 2,000 tons each upon the line and thus earn the subsidy. Independent of this subsidy the company is to enjoy the rights and privileges of vessels carrying mails, in the shape of exemption from port charges and other imposts.

## NEW ORLEANS AND THE MEXICAN COFFEE TRADE.

Almost at our very doors, within three days and a few hours distance of New Orleans, lies one of the greatest and the most productive coffee regions on the planet. But a few miles from Vera Cruz, in Mexico, is situated Cordova, which lies within a short mile of the railroad that connects the capital of the republic with the gulf coast. Here the coffee tree thrives in a congenial soil. From Cordova to Orizaba, and from one side to the other of the great valley in which the former town is situated, both the soil and the climate are favorable to the production and perfection of coffee trees. In the interior states of San Luis Potosi and Aguascalientes, Nuevo Leon and Zacatecas, the coffee tree thrives and is productive, but not so much so as in the gulf states of Vera Cruz and Tabasco, and the states of Colima, Michoacan, Sinaloa and Guerrero, which border on the Pacific ocean. The very finest coffee region, not only of Mexico but most probably of the whole world, is found at Uruapan, a little village in the state of Michoacan. At this place the coffee tree attains a size and productiveness unequalled in any other part of the planet, while the quality of the berry is superior to the best grown in Java, and is at least equal to the finest produced in Arabia Felix. New Orleans is the nearest American market for the coffee harvests of Mexico, yet thousands of bags are annually sent to Europe and Northern ports of the United States. But when railroad communication shall be established with this country this trade will probably be divided between St. Louis and the Crescent City, while the latter mart will undoubtedly furnish the entire South with this precious production of our fair southern sister republic.—New Orleans Democrat.

**"ESSENCIALMENTE AGRICOLA."**

After making all due allowance for the differences of location, products and population, upon whichever side they may fall, there is much of value and interest in a comparison between the agricultural production of the state of Illinois and the whole empire of Brazil. We make the comparison, imperfect as it must necessarily be, not from a wish to say unkind things of an industry here which has had unusual difficulties and burdens to contend with; but from the wish to show what an essentially agricultural community can do, and how futile have been the artificial means here employed to accomplish the same result. There is an erroneous belief, and it is not an uncommon one, that agriculture is not a wealth-producing industry in comparison with the many other occupations which men commonly choose. An examination of the returns of the state of Illinois for 1880, however, must lead to another conclusion. Under favoring conditions—which are found everywhere in Brazil—intelligent agriculture is one of the most profitable occupations into which men can enter, not only through the direct returns from the labor expended, but from the low average of risk through terms of years. The enormous value of the agricultural products of Illinois means a large per capita income for the whole population, and in that one result lies the source of a country's permanent prosperity.

In their physical characteristics there is a wide difference—a difference in the favor of the one in location, social development, and fertility of soil, but of the other in extent, population, and in the diversity of its soil, climate and productions. Illinois has an area of 55,414 square miles and a population according to the last census of 3,083,326. Brazil, on the other hand, has an area of 3,218,750 square miles, and a population somewhere between ten and eleven millions, or nearly six times the area and over three and one-half times the population of Illinois. As between two such countries there should be no other comparison than that of averages and percentages, but yet the agricultural development of the one, and the industrial errors of the other, have been carried to such an extreme that a comparison of aggregates can be made to the great advantage of the smaller and less populous state.

According to tables prepared by the secretary of the Illinois state board of agriculture for the calendar year 1880, the number and value of horses, cattle, hogs and sheep, and the quantity and value of farm products for that year were as follows:

**LIVE STOCK.**

	number	value
Horses .....	912,586	\$24,239,984
Cattle .....	1,999,788	19,895,484
Hogs .....	3,800,364	4,800,364
Sheep .....	964,696	1,246,822

**FARM PRODUCTS.**

	quantity	value
Corn, bushels.....	250,697,036	\$83,757,039
Wheat, ".....	56,598,309	46,497,160
Oats, ".....	62,709,002	12,858,217
Rye, ".....	2,737,159	1,513,587
Barley, ".....	998,382	500,703
Potatoes, ".....	647,811	3,689,348
Hay, tons.....	3,486,584	22,589,691
Orchard products, 306,096 acres under cultivation.....		8,176,480
Dairy products, estimated.....		27,000,000

Grand total..... \$256,824,909

From this it will be seen that the total value of the live stock produced during the year 1880 was \$50,182,654, and that of the various farm products, exclusive of garden products and small fruits, was \$206,642,255—making a grand total of \$256,824,909. Had an account been rendered of the value of garden products and small fruits, both of which give occupation to many hands and

large areas of land, this total would have been still further increased, probably to the round sum of \$260,000,000.

In the last *relatorio* of the minister of finance, the quantities and values of the national products exported during the fiscal year 1878-79—the last year for which the export of the whole empire is given—were as follows:

1878-79	quantity	of value
Coffee, kilos.....	216,022,823	113,481,929\$
Sugar, ".....	146,857,810	21,812,069
Rubber, ".....	6,170,943	10,960,791
Cotton, ".....	25,487,259	9,906,300
Hides, ".....	10,481,296	8,359,482
Tobacco ".....	19,881,045	7,179,697
Mate, ".....	13,722,399	2,715,624
Castanilla nuts.....	3,507,044	510,468
Wood, pieces.....	15,084,360	491,325
Gold, grams.....	1,602,628	2,222,283
Diamonds, ".....	12,599	944,508
Diverse products.....		25,480,024

Total official value, 204,057,500  
Deduct export of gold and diam. 3,166,791

Add 25% for products consumed at home 50,222,677

Total production 251,113,386  
Or, at par of 27 pence \$136,697,543  
at present exch. of 21 d. \$105,465,513

The totals here given include many articles which can not be properly classified among the agricultural productions of the country, but as the official statistics group them all together into one item, "diverse products," it is impossible to determine their amount. As there are many small products which do not enter into the list of exports, it may be considered that the two classes balance each other, and that the total given is approximately correct. The allowance of twenty-five per cent. for the value of those agricultural products which are consumed at home will at first sight be deemed too low, but when it is remembered that coffee forms about 55 per cent., and the first six articles in the above table about 84 per cent. of the total export; when it is remembered that Brazil imports all her flour, nearly all of her rice, a large percentage of corn, all her hay, nineteen-twentieths of her jerked beef and dried fish, and very nearly all of such articles of consumption as potatoes, canned vegetables, etc., etc.,—when all these facts are considered it will be seen that 25 per cent. is too large instead of too small an allowance. In addition we have here specified several forest products to a total value of 14,678,208\$, which should not enter into a list of agricultural productions.

A comparison between these two results shows that upon a fair valuation the agricultural product of the state of Illinois is considerably more than twice that of Brazil. The state of Illinois has never known the dwarfing influence of slavery nor the restrictive influence of the great proprietorships. Land is cultivated in large or small estate according to the ability of the cultivator, the great part of the land being held and owned by small farmers. The transfer of property is made easy, and the state provides for the registry and protection of titles. Transportation is cheap and rapid, and is unencumbered with any useless formalities. Labor is honorable and honored, the most successful farmers not only supervising their estates but actually working in the fields themselves. The use of labor-saving machinery is universal. The hand of the government is unseen and unfelt.

It is not difficult for our Brazilian readers to draw the parallel in this case, and to determine many of the causes which have led to the meagre results of Brazilian agriculture. The evils which have weighed upon this industry are principally artificial, and can be removed. It is useless to attempt further to build up a prosperous industry on the system now in vogue; another must be tried. There must be free labor, free en-

terprise, individual impulse. The government must do less; the planter must do more. If the Brazilian planter will imitate the example of the Illinois farmer, such comparisons as the above will soon be of the past.

**THE DATE COFFEE COMPANY.**

A special general meeting of the shareholders of the company was held at the City Terminus Hotel, London, on March 14, to consider the confirmation of resolutions to the effect that the capital of the company be £50,000, divided into shares of £1 each; empowering the directors to call in all shares or certificates for shares, and to issue instead shares or certificates for shares of the company of £1 each; and authorizing the directors to allot and issue the shares as they might deem fit. The chairman, Mr. Henry Haymen, before putting the resolutions, referred to various criticisms in the press, and said that, condensed, they amounted to this, that the original patent of Mr. Henley (the English company) was, comparatively speaking, worthless. His answer to that was that the English company had proved that the cost of manufacturing the patent date coffee did not exceed a certain sum, and they had actually entered into contracts for the sale of the entire make of the company at a price which would, he said, leave a profit of 100 per cent. to the parent company, irrespective altogether of the sale of patents made or which might be made. In reply to other hostile criticisms, and, after alluding to the large sales already of "the stuff," he asserted that Mr. Henley's patent was unassailable. It had been stated that £10,000 had been spent in a fortnight in advertising a subsidiary company, but the amount was under £2,000. No secret was made of the fact that when the company was registered the chairman, the solicitor, and the patentee took 2,000 shares each; but that, he said, showed their confidence in the company. The committee of the Stock Exchange, however, objected, and therefore they disposed of some, and the directors at present held about 3,000 of the shares. Something had been said about the French company and the German company. The directors did not intend that they should work in an antagonistic spirit to the English company, and force their produce on the English market so as to deprecate the value of the English company. He had not the shadow of a doubt that the dividend would be a hundred per cent. That was the estimate he made some time ago; but since then they had made one or two discoveries which greatly advanced the value of the article, one being that it need not be sold in 1-lb. tins, but could be sold with a profit in tins of 2d., 3d., 4d., and 6d. each. Another and very important matter was that they could now make it into cakes, so that a piece might be broken off, and when put into hot water there was the cup of coffee at once. And, again, they had found by mixing a small proportion of the chocolate bean with the date coffee and putting it into a special process they could produce the finest chocolate. In conclusion, he moved the resolutions as above. The motion was seconded and carried, after the chairman had replied to a few questions; and at a subsequent meeting resolutions were passed authorizing the directors to carry out an agreement made between the company and Mr. R. M. Hillier, on behalf of the German Date Coffee Company, and to divide the purchase-money of £50,000 as either dividend or bonus among the shareholders of the company.

**LIBERIAN COFFEE.**

The director of the public gardens and plantations of Jamaica, Mr. Morris, has recently published an interesting work entitled *Notes on Liberian Coffee*. After giving a history of this variety, and describing the success which has attended its cultivation in the East and West Indies, Mr. Morris quotes the opinions of several planters to show that it cannot be grown successfully under the same conditions as regards elevation and climate as the best varieties of Arabian coffee. Having its home on the western coast of Africa, and flourishing in the rich, fat lands extending from the foot of the hills to the seaside, it is essentially a low-country plant. Wherever it has been tried under cultivation in the East and West Indies it has shown a decided preference for the "warm, moist, and stimulating climate" of the plains. One great thing about it is that although it actually possesses no immunity from the deadly coffee-leaf disease, it is, nevertheless, able to bear its effects much more successfully than *C. arabica*, and on this account alone it deserves careful attention in all coffee-growing countries. With regard to its commercial value Mr. Morris thinks it will probably be lower than the best varieties of Arabian, but he states that it is the opinion of experienced coffee dealers that "the Liberian bean will ultimately find its level alongside Java and native descriptions selling at about 90s. p.r.cwt." This does not necessarily involve a lower return for the capital and attention devoted to

it. Indeed, Mr. Morris thinks that from its more robust and prolific character, and from the generally more economic treatment to which it is amenable, it is quite possible that its cultivation will prove even more remunerative than the high priced varieties of Arabian coffee. Mr. Morris's remarks on the propagation of Liberian coffee, on the climate, temperature, soil, aspect, and shade most suitable, will be of the greatest value to planters.

**SLAVERY IN BRAZIL.**

At the present time, when the attention of her majesty's government has again been directed to the ineffectual character of the measures adopted for the suppression of the slave trade in countries over which the sovereigns of Turkey and Egypt hold dominion, it must not be forgotten that "the abolition of slavery," on which popular demagogues delight to expatiate, is, in a great measure, a delusion. There are many countries throughout the world, claiming to be civilized, where this barbarous institution still exists. In Brazil the evil is notorious; and the other day Senhor Joaquim Nabuco was entertained to breakfast by the president of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, at the Charing Cross Hotel, in recognition of his efforts to bring about total emancipation in the country to which he belongs. By a law passed in 1851 the slave trade in Brazil was distinctly made illegal. By another more stringent act, passed in 1850, the slave trade was said to have come to an end. Then, by an extraordinary act passed in 1871, those who were then in slavery were to continue to be so, but all born after that should be accounted free, but for 25 years were to be subject to an apprenticeship. According to Senhor Nabuco, private beneficence has far outstripped the attempts of the state to reduce the number of the slaves, and thousands of liberations have been freely granted. This is as it ought to be. More depends on the efforts of the people than any act of legislation, and the society with which Senhor Nabuco is connected ought to do a vast amount of good in protecting the oppressed and gaining liberty for all who truly deserve it. It is all very well to argue that many of the slaves are far better off than they could possibly be if they were freed; but as Cowper says:

"Freedom has a thousand charms" to show,  
Which slaves, however contented, never know."

—British Mercantile Gazette, March 31.

**ARGENTINE BONDS AT 82 AND 92.**

Argentine bonds are quoted on the London stock exchange at, say, 92 ex-coupon, and 12 million dollars have been sold at 82, bearing 6 per cent. interest. At the same time, British 3 per cent. bonds are at 99½; French 5 per cent. consols at 120 fcs. 70 c.; and the United States are able to refund their debt at 3½ per cent. It is worth while to understand clearly the reasons why, under such a condition of the money market of the world; Argentine bonds bearing 6 per cent. are, in the estimation of the Argentine government, worth 82, and in the opinion of the stock exchange, worth 92. It is, plainly, not because the resources of this country are not sufficiently great to sustain confidence in our ability to pay our obligations, for countries, far less able to pay, have a higher credit. What, then, is the reason for this anomalous state of affairs? In our opinion, the difference between the above quotation on the stock exchange and, for example, the credit of Chile in the time of peace, is the world's opinion of the war-risk and the discrediting influence of an inconceivable paper money. We venture to say that, had we a currency based upon and convertible into gold, and had we a guarantee of peace, our 6 per cent. bonds would be more than 102, instead of 82 or 92. The only menace of peace comes from Chile. In this direction there are clouds and doubt. There is a pretty prevalent feeling abroad that we shall drift into a war. While we see and confess the gravity of the situation, we do not believe there will be war. This would be supreme folly and great wickedness, which we are not prepared to believe the two republics capable of committing, but this the world does not see, and their doubts may be read in the stock exchange quotation. Then, too, we discredit ourselves by consenting to monetary bankruptcy in circulating notes that we do not even try to pay, and this has a powerful influence on our credit. Give the republic peace at home and abroad, and give it the honest and gold currency for a basis, and uniform guaranteed notes for purposes of business and exchange, and our credit and prosperity would be far stronger than they are to-day. President Roça can compass both ends, and if he does, his administration will stand out in bold relief, and with golden letters will its honors be preserved in honor.—*Buenos Aires Herald*.

THE February reduction of the United States public debt was \$11,843,155.51.

THE indications are that the United States will receive a half million of emigrants during the present year.

## PROVINCIAL NOTES.

—The March receipts of the Manóas custom house were 28,418\$600.

—A German colonist named Bielmeyer was assassinated on the 17th ult. on the Santa Barbara fazenda, Amparo, S. Paulo.

—Many of the immigrants sent to the São Paulo barracks have found work on the railways and plantations of that province.

—The provincial government of Rio de Janeiro has appropriated the sum of 3,000\$ for repairing the roads between Magé and Theresopolis.

—The wall of the Campinas jail was broken through on the morning of the 23rd ult. and a slave, convicted of murder, made his escape.

—The "Saca-Rollas" club of Rio Grande celebrated on the 21st ult. the three-hundred-and-eighty-first anniversary of the discovery of Brazil.

—A few years ago Francisco dos Reis e Silva, a resident of Campanha, Minas Geraes, was a slave belonging to Raphael dos Reis e Silva. To-day he is a free man, a qualified voter, and the owner of lands to the value of some 6,000\$. And yet we are told that the emancipated slaves will not work.

—The *Diário*, of Campinas, São Paulo, relates that a quarrel took place between two brothers Benedicto and Raymundo do Rosario on the 20th ult. at Mogy-mirim in which Benedicto was killed with a blow from his brother's knife. The fratricide escaped.

—A planters' club, composed of planters, merchants, lawyers and doctors, was organized at Parahyba do Sul on the 20th ult. A local sect fears that the objects of the organization are chiefly political.

—The March receipts of the Pará custom house amounted to a total of 455,242\$460, against 507,068\$555 for the same month of last year. This total is 80,698\$333 below the receipts for February.

—The residents of São Jerônimo, Rio Grande do Sul, have sent a representation to the provincial assembly in favor of the 7 per cent. guarantee on the capital invested in working the Arroio dos Ratos coal mines.

—On the 20th an attempted assassination took place near Valença in which a man named Mesquita was stabbed by a slave who had come with him from Campo Belo. The wounded man went into Valença, entered his complaint at the police headquarters, and was sent to the hospital. The police have since announced that Mesquita is one of the individuals recently concerned in the rumored rising of slaves at Campo Belo.

—There seems to be some slight soreness at Pelotas, Rio Grande do Sul, because one of the lucky winners of the Ypiranga *sorte grande* failed to distribute his money around. After drawing his 450,000\$, the young man sent 9,500\$ back to Pelotas, 5,000\$ of which went to the brokers who sold him the ticket. The *Correio Mercantil* thinks, however, that "a little is better than nothing," and as the good people of Pelotas have no claim whatever on the young man's money, we are inclined to think so too.

—The *Diário de Pelotas* says that Colonel Latorre has sent a telegram to Montevideo offering to retire from Jaguarão, Rio Grande, and not to return to Montevideo, providing Colonel Santos will withdraw from his house and leave the Uruguayan government in the hands of President Vidal. The Uruguayans received this message with great enthusiasm. President Vidal, however, says that he will sustain Santos, and a special ambassador has been sent to the Brazilian government to ask the interment of Latorre.

—For the fiscal year 1879-80 the treasury balance sheet of the province of Amazonas shows the following receipts and expenditures:

Regular receipts.....	1,015,831\$104
Deposits.....	137,664 453
Balance from 1878-79.....	49,238 555

	1,202,734 112
Regular expenditures.....	709,023\$205
Deposits withdrawn.....	138,362 161
	847,385 366

Balance carried over to 1880-81	355,348 746
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—On the occasion of the Emperor's visit to São João do Morro Grande, Minas Geraes, about the middle of last month, Mr. Charles Henry Williams, of Cocães, director of the National Brazilian Mining Co. (in liquidation), granted letters of freedom to four of the company's slaves, the papers being presented by his majesty. Mr. Williams expresses a hope that he will soon be able to free all the slaves belonging to this old English association. On the same occasion a memorial was presented to the Emperor by Mr. Williams with respect to the Catta Branca slaves so long held in illegal slavery by the Morro Velho company, to whom 19-years wages are due according to the decision of the courts.

—Malignant fevers are reported to be raging at Caruaru, Pernambuco.

—There have been regular and heavy rains in the province of Ceará during the past month.

—The number of qualified voters at Santarem, Pará, under the new electoral regulations, is 158.

—The provincial assembly of Amazonas was opened on the 14th ult., with an attendance of twelve deputies.

—At latest sittings the provincial assembly of Alagoas was holding preparatory sessions because of inability to get a quorum together.

—According to the *relatório* of the provincial president of Amazonas the treasury balances on the 1st of March amounted to 802,000\$.

—The March receipts of the Parahyba (Itaúny) custom house amounted to 6,318\$891, and of the provincial collector's office 757\$993.

—The president of Ceará has authorized the emission of provincial *apólices* to the amount of 100,000\$ in accordance with the law of July 28, 1877.

—It is announced that an epidemic similar to that which has been so fatal in Vassouras, has recently broken out at Commercio, on the Dom Pedro II railway.

—The internal revenue receipts of the provincial collector's office of Ceará during the first quarter of this year amounted to 81,186\$175, against 99,069\$761 for the same period of last year.

—The postoffice at Pindamonhangaba, São Paulo, was broken into during the night of the 27th ult. and robbed to the amount of 30\$. The worthy postmaster has proceeded to make investigations.

—On the 25th ult. the vicar at Casa Branca was fired upon by some concealed individual and severely wounded. Some forty shot were afterwards taken out of his left side and shoulder. The would-be assassin escaped, of course. They always do.

—Notoriety has at last fallen upon that cluster of huts known as Igapiimirim, province of Pará. An Englishman named Charles Fort has recently received a beating there from the hands of two bare-footed patriots, and the *jús* of the place has been compelled to run for his life.

—A question having arisen between the city council of Manóas, Amazonas, and the provincial president with reference to some petty dispute about city administration, the former has resolved to make a representation to the imperial government.

—On the occasion of a religious procession at Pernambuco on the night of the 15th ult. the thieves and pickpockets improved the opportunity to gather in a good harvest. The principal victims were the women who were foolish enough to wear their jewelry on such an occasion, one of them having even the rings pulled from her ears.

—A scheme is on foot in Rio Grande do Sul and the neighboring Argentine provinces for the cutting of a canal between the Paraná and Uruguay rivers, through that part of Argentine territory known as the Missões. The distance is 10 leagues and the estimated cost 4,000,000\$. The projectors ask only the right to collect toll for a term of years.

## RAILROAD NOTES.

—The January storms in England cost the Great Western railway the total sum of £ 56,000.

—The January receipts of the São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro railway amounted to 94,432\$270, and the expenditures to 68,777\$423.

—The March receipts of the "Recife ao S. Francisco" railway amounted to 141,095\$617, and the expenditures to 57,247\$706.

—The government has accorded its approval to the changes made in the line of the Rio Verde railway.

—A meeting of the shareholders of the S. Paulo and Rio de Janeiro line is called to meet on the 22nd inst.

—We believe we are correct in stating that, including the extra lines laid down over a large portion of their system, and the vast number of sidings, the London and Northwestern Company maintain the astonishing amount of no less than 10,000 miles of railway. The capital embarked in this vast aggregate amounts to no less a sum than £100,000,000, while its average weekly receipts fall little short of £200,000. The company annually carry nearly 50,000,000 passengers and between 30,000,000 and 40,000,000 tons of merchandise and minerals, in the conveyance of which their trains run 25,000,000 miles, while there are employed upward of 2,000 engines, 3,000 carriages, and nearly 50,000 goods-wagons and other vehicles of various descriptions, to say nothing of a magnificent fleet of steamers, a stud of between 2,000 and 3,000 horses, and last, though not least, an army of 50,000 men.—*Exchange*.

—An imperial decree of the 2nd inst. approves provisionally the tariffs of the Limoeiro railway of Pernambuco.

—The Santa Catharina correspondent of the *Cruceroiro* says that the directors of the Dona Theresa Christina railway are building a wharf at Imbetuba for the discharge of vessels bringing material for the road.

## RIVER PLATE ITEMS.

From the *Herald*, Buenos Aires, April 14.

—Jujuy is the richest province of the republic in natural resources.

—The length of the Catalinas mole is to be increased 1200 metres.

—The population of Buenos Aires at the end of March, was estimated at 274,886 souls.

—Sig. Ferrari's opera company will be here on the 1st prox., and the first opera will be sung on the 10th of May.

—It is believed still, that Messrs. Rothschild, the wealthy bankers, have no agent here contracting with the general government for the colonization of lands, and the building of railways, though of course not on anything like the fabulous scale spoken of not long ago.

—La Industrial, a manufactory of tobacco in Montevideo, has been burned. The losses are estimated at 80,000 dollars gold. A watch-making shop alongside was also burned. The fire lasted five hours, in which time about a quarter of a block of buildings was destroyed. Happily there were no personal accidents.

—The old steamer *Port of Buenos Ayres*, but now called *Don Hermann*, has been lost in Fitzroy channel in the straits of Magellan, having been driven on the rocks in a storm. She was insured in offices in this city. Mr. Stant, now in this city, will take a diver down and attempt to raise her.

—Authentic information from Santa Fé reports wheat scarce and high. There will be none to come down the river, and very little flour, for the very good reason that it will pay better to keep it for the home market.

—The provincial Riachuelo loan, issued at 90 per cent., payable in gold, is not being taken up, and there is no probability that it will be. An internal gold loan is one which would meet with difficulty in any case, and with us it is unnecessary, as paper money will be used in the completion of the works.

—Mr. Beaumont is succeeding admirably in ostrich farming, with African ostriches. Incubation has been successful, and all the feathers find quick sale in the home markets. Some of the finest feathers which grace the prettiest hats worn by the fairest Portenas, are grown and prepared in this province.

—The bids for furnishing 800 tons of steel rails for the Western railway has been awarded to two houses—Mr. Cockerell, of Lisle, Belgium, and Mr. Cannell, Sheffield, England, each 400 tons, at £6 12s. 6d., delivered at Antwerp and Liverpool. This is a low price for steel rails. The highest bid was £10. Mr. Cruzot did not bid, having too much to do.

—After deducting all working expenses, &c., it has been shown that the Central Argentine railway has gained during the last three years:

\$f. 319,262 87 in 1878.
" 366,202 25 " 1879.
" 656,186 53 " 1880.

A great part of which notable increase is attributed to our commerce with Bolivia.

—During the first quarter of this year, the receipts of the Western railway, have been 12,125,476\$75. The cash on hand on the 1st of January having been 8,564\$37, the whole forms 12,134,041\$12. The disbursements during the same period having been 10,566,759\$75 there remains a balance on hand of 1,627,281\$37 up to the end of March.

—The ex-commissary of the Ocampo colony, Mr. N. Andrews, was arrested on Friday, on the passenger mole, as he was about to take the steamer for Europe. The arrest was made by order of the minister of foreign affairs, and the charge is the very serious one of having hanged a colonist, after submitting him to the most cruel torments.

—Messrs. V. Sicard & Co. are announced to have received advices to the effect that a French bank, with a capital of ten million francs, subscribed by various influential and wealthy capitalists, is about to be established here. It is added that all the leading French firms in this market have showed their confidence in the success of the undertaking by subscribing largely for shares.

—Our colleague *La Libertad* calls attention to what it not inaptly terms the scandal of the day, showing how, according to the budget sanctioned by the provincial deputies, it is proposed to spend 85 millions currency per annum. This unwarranted increase of expenditure arises from the facts that the Governor's salary, which was \$20,000 per month, has been raised to \$30,000, and that of the Vice-Governor from \$15,000 to \$20,000. An increase of \$200,000 in office expenses has been sanctioned. The heretofore unknown office of

Governor's secretary, with \$4,000 per month, has been created, and the stipend of the deputies, which was \$40,000 per annum, has been increased, by themselves, to \$60,000. To meet this deficit, for which there is absolutely no occasion, the tax on rural property has been increased 20 per cent.

From the *Herald*, Buenos Aires, April 23, 1880.

—Eight new proposals have been submitted to the government for the founding of agricultural and industrial colonies in the Chaco.

—Quarantine is still imposed on all arrivals from Rio Janeiro, where, we are sorry to say, the yellow fever appears to have taken a turn for the worse.

—The entire judicial system which prevails in this republic, would disgrace the middle ages. It is so bad that the public get on only by remaining in ignorance or darkness concerning it.

—The state of the camps in Entre Rios and Corrientes, though naturally flowing with milk and honey, is every day growing more dangerous owing to the lawless bands of marauders who are un molested by the law.

—The fever to expropriate the Southern railway, is manifestly growing in force and extent, which is all the greater pity since we have so much better use for all our capital and skill.

—The captain of the port has fined all vessels not having buoys to anchor with, although notice has been given to the consuls or captains, and when it is well known that such a demerit has not been made or known of for a long time. This kind of snap-judgment is not equitable, and partakes too much of the appearance that money from multas is wanted.

—Three Danish gentlemen are going down to Patagonia in the Villarrío to spy out the land with a view of establishing a Scandinavian colony, if the prospect is pleasing. We sincerely hope they will come, for they are the best of immigrants.

## THE RISE AND PROGRESS OF MEXICO.

The rise of progress in Mexico within the past few months is unparalleled in the history of civilization. A year ago the country seemed to be without prospect or ambition of advancement. To-day it is vocal with hum of industry and eloquent with indications of improvement upon a grand and striking scale. Railroads are springing up. Eight thousand men are working on one road to run north from the city of Mexico to the Rio Grande. Seven thousand men are working on another which is to run northwest to meet the Southern Pacific. Other thousands are clearing the pathway, felling forests and bridging torrents for a railway from the capital to the Pacific Ocean. Smaller roads are reaching out into the mining district, the rich agricultural fields of San Luis Potosí, the magnificent sierra of Yucatan. In all more than thirty thousand men are at this moment toiling at the structure of Mexico's commercial greatness, and the iron bands which are to unite the two republics are being forged while we eat and sleep. Almost before we realize it, Mexico will be in fact our next door neighbor. We shall have two or three direct communications by rail, half a dozen steamship lines, daily mail, and constant social and commercial intercourse—and all this with a country which, up to this moment, has been more of a stranger to us than Italy or Switzerland.

People discover that the upper classes of the capital are refined, cultured, and polished; that their life is one of elegance and luxury; that their homes are charming, graceful and pure. They find that the Mexicans are anxious to place their country in the march of progress, to encourage the introduction of capital and to promote the domestication of the peaceful arts and sciences. And thus, with a start, as it were, our capitalists, our business men, our speculators have awakened to the importance of Mexico in the grand economical problem of the generation.—*New Orleans Democrat*.

A strong free trade movement is taking place in Spain, with which many prominent men are identified. A commercial treaty with England and tariff reforms in Cuba are principal features in the movement.

THIRTEEN vessels, with an aggregate tonnage of 21,554 tons, were launched from the Clyde shipyards in February.

THE late Sir George Colley, before leaving Durban to take command of the troops in South Africa, appointed a commission to inquire into the causes which have led to the failure of coffee cultivation in the colony of Natal; to report whether, in the opinion of the commissioners, those causes are such as to render the cultivation of coffee commercially unremunerative, and if such is not their opinion to make such suggestions for the removal of the causes, or for the amelioration of the conditions under which the coffee-planting interest has hitherto failed of success, as may, in their opinion lead to making coffee cultivation an important factor in the agricultural prosperity of the colony.



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RIO DE JANEIRO, MAY 4TH, 1881.

*Consul-nos* that the State Department at Washington is contemplating the appointment of Mr. Volney B. Smith, formerly consul at St. Thomas, as consul-general at this port. We have no positive information as yet of the formal appointment, but it is highly probable that the new Secretary of State, who has no professional retaining fees to influence him, will soon make the desired change. As yet no news has been received here of the appointment of a successor to Minister Hilliard.

THE latest outcome, and certainly not the most encouraging one, of the present labor agitation in this country is the decision of several prominent planters of São Paulo to send to the United States for Chinese laborers. These gentlemen persist in their belief that no use can be made of the freedmen, hence they are determined to fill their places with the most servile class of free laborers that can be found. They propose to turn away the freedmen to become paupers and vagrants in a country already overflowing with those classes, and they are determined to retain a false and pernicious social system which has already done incalculable harm to Brazil. The steamer which sails for the United States to-day will take Dr. José Custodio Alves de Lima, a graduate of Syracuse University, New York, who is empowered to contract for 3,000 Chinese laborers for Paulista planters. This purpose is to be deeply regretted, and were there any certainty that Dr. Lima would be successful in his mission, we should look upon it as an event full of certain disaster in the future. Industrious as the Chinese laborer is, he is not suited to a country just freeing herself from slavery. We can not wish Dr. Lima success in his mission.

WITHIN the past month three separate attempts have been made to shoot engine drivers on the railways of this province and São Paulo. One attempt took place on the English railway, not far from São Paulo, a second occurred on the Sorocabana railway, of São Paulo, and the third occurred on the 28th ult. on the Dom Pedro II line between Maxambomba and Sapopemba. In the first two cases no one was injured, but in the last case the driver received some slight wounds in the head. In the first two cases there is strong circumstantial evidence as to the authors, as the attempts took place in localities where animals had been killed on the track. In addition to these shooting affairs, three separate attempts to wreck trains, by placing obstructions on the track, have occurred within the same per-

iod—one on the Paulista line, and two on the North line, both in the province of São Paulo. These dastardly attempts to kill innocent employees and travelers because of some grudge against railway companies can not be punished too severely. In the two instances where there is strong circumstantial evidence as to the guilty parties, the police authorities refuse to take any steps because two witnesses to the act can not be produced. We need not say that all this idle nonsense about two eye-witnesses is a safeguard for criminals which is defeating justice every day. Now that it has reached such a stage that ruffians can deliberately shoot at engine drivers and place obstructions on the rails in advance of passenger trains, it is full time that this sentimental twaddle about the sanctity of a criminal's life and the necessity of having two eye-witnesses to the crime, should cease. The law-abiding part of the community also have rights which the government is bound to watch over and protect. Whether in their homes or traveling they should be protected from robbery and assassination by every power of the law. As affairs have reached a stage where six attempts at assassination by the wholesale in the two leading provinces of the empire have occurred in one month, it is full time that the department of justice should wake up, and that someone's neck should be stretched.

At a meeting of the Ypiranga monument commission at São Paulo on the 1st instant, Dr. Ernesto Mariano da Silva Ramos presented the following scheme for its consideration. The main feature of the monument, as it is still called, commemorating the independence of Brazil upon the very spot where it was declared, is a great university dedicated to the purposes of primary and higher education. The scheme, however, comprises several distinctive features which the author presents in the following numerical order: 1st, The opening of an avenue in a straight line from the city of São Paulo to the plain of Ypiranga, 100 feet in width, macadamized and bordered with shade trees. 2nd, The creation of a great garden or park, similar to the Jardim da Acclamação in this city, on the hill where the commemorative stone now stands. This garden or park shall have at its central point a column, obelisk, or some other work of art to commemorate the 7th of September, 1822, which shall be of modest proportions and erected by voluntary contributions. 3rd, The four sides of the park shall be composed of four streets, 53 1/2 feet in width. Fronting the principal street there shall be erected a grand edifice of suitable proportions for the future establishment there of a great institution of primary and higher education. 4th, The reservation from the proceeds of the lotteries of not less than one thousand contos as an endowment fund, the income of which shall be devoted to the maintenance of the institution. 5th, The solicitation from the imperial or provincial government of a gift of the public lands adjacent to Ypiranga, with authorization to rent or sell, as a part of the monument's endowment fund. 6th, The acquirement of a privilege for the location and operation of a tramway line along the main avenue between São Paulo and Ypiranga, the net receipts of the line to go to the endowment fund of the university. It is desired that the university shall have a faculty fully empowered to confer degrees, but in case the government will not concede this privilege then it should be constituted as a free university, its graduates coming before the official faculties to pass their formal examinations as now required. It is designed to make primary instruction one of the principal objects of the institution, as upon it depends primarily

the enlightenment of the people. This primary instruction should consist not merely of the alphabet, primer, and four fundamental rules of arithmetic, but it should require, above all things, the acquirement of a "knowledge of physics, chemistry, natural history, drawing, hygiene, physiology, geography, meteorology, in short, of all the sciences which constitute the art of knowing how to live and to gather the greatest amount of results from the world about us." This eminently patriotic scheme has received the warmest commendations from the people of São Paulo, and was very favorably received by the commission.

AFTER an absence of some months in Europe Deputy Joaquim Nabuco now returns to Brazil and resumes the work upon which he entered with so much zeal less than two years ago. As the leader of the abolition movement in this country and as the president of an anti-slavery society, his movements have been invested with an importance second to those of no other Brazilian statesman of the day. The representative of a new order of things, a new system of labor, new industry and enterprise, he could not fail to excite interest wherever he went; but as the representative of a party pledged to the overthrow of slavery he inevitably excited not only the interest but the hearty encouragement and sympathy of the most intelligent men with whom he came in contact. The sentiment is gaining impetus daily throughout the civilized world that the time has come for the utter extinction of slavery, and furthermore that as slavery is now confined to Turkey and Brazil the time has come for the use of all possible outside pressure to secure that result. The enthusiastic reception of Deputy Joaquim Nabuco in Portugal, Spain, England and France means something more than admiration for the man and the orator; it means outspoken sympathy and support for the principles which he represents, and sincere encouragement for the struggle to ensue in the near future. And still further, it means that the intelligent sentiment of Europe no longer tolerates the existence of slavery in Brazil, and that it stands ready to render all needed aid and encouragement for its utter extinction. It means that the civilized world is no longer deceived by the half-way measures adopted here for the emancipation of the slaves, and that it demands an honest, efficient effort for their early liberation. These indications of the day should not be lost upon the government; nor upon the pro-slavery party in whose hands are now the destinies of the empire. If Brazil is to retain the respect of the civilized world—or rather, if she is to regain the respect already lost, it must be through the immediate abolition of slavery, without onus either to the slave, or to the non-slaveholder. There must be no more trifling with a deceptive and misleading measure for emancipation—an emancipation which leaves to death the breaking of chains, and to the free-born child of slaves the inheritance of slavery, under another name, for the best part of its life. There must be no further enslavement of Indians on the Amazon, no further sale of illegally-held Africans, no further sale of free-born children into slavery, no further sale of the "services" of free-born children, and no further torture with chain and lash even to the extremity of death. There must be an earnest, consistent effort on the part of the government to wipe out this accursed disgrace, and to place itself in line with the civilization of the day. This is now no mere demand of a faction in Brazil; it is the demand of the civilized world. Deputy Joaquim Nabuco is no longer the mouth-piece of Brazilian abolitionists, but of abolitionists everywhere. Hereafter he will

occupy another position than that of deputy, and president of a Brazilian anti-slavery society; he will occupy a position which no Brazilian constituency can confer. In seeking the sympathy and aid of abolitionists outside of Brazil, he has given the movement and his connection with it an international character which can not now be withdrawn. Heretofore he could have withdrawn from the cause with but a slight loss of local prestige, but to-day such an act is impossible. He must now fight to the bitter end, and in the struggle he will be backed by the aid and sympathy of Europe and the United States. It is no longer a handful of deputies and a local organization with which the slaveholders of Brazil have to contend, but with the wider and better directed abolition sentiment of the whole world.

## EMANCIPATION IN CUBA.

[Response by Mr. J. V. Crawford, late British consul in Cuba, to Deputy Joaquim Nabuco's speech, at the dinner given by the British Anti-Slavery Society, March 23.]

In the eloquent speech of our honored guest, Senhor Nabuco, allusion was made to the island of Cuba, and it may be interesting to you, perhaps, to hear how the work of emancipation is going on there.

The same gloomy prognostications, as those Senhor Nabuco describes as prevalent in Brazil, were uttered in Cuba whenever the dreaded question of negro emancipation was mentioned. It was predicted that the abolition of slavery would prove the ruin of the land, and that, without forced labor, the prosperity of the country would vanish. But, what do we see? Although the slave trade ceased in 1866, and in spite of the decrease of one-third of the slave population since 1876, the production of Cuba is now as flourishing as ever it was, 580,000 tons of sugar alone having been exported last year, whilst the sugar and tobacco crops now coming forward are as large as ever.

The first emancipation act was passed by the Cortes in 1870, and is similar to that of Brazil. Slave children born after the date of the battle of Alcolea, September, 1868, were declared free, but were subject to their mother's master up to the age of twenty-two.

This was replaced by a new emancipation act last year, which though very incomplete and unsatisfactory, is producing remarkable results. The mere fact of the Cortes passing such a law has convinced the slave-owners that the days of slavery in Cuba are numbered, and as a natural consequence slave property has greatly declined in value.

The rapid decrease in the slave population has been brought about by several causes. First, the reduced value (coupled with the panic of the slave owners) has enabled many of the slaves to redeem themselves; then a large number have been voluntarily manumitted by their masters. Again, in view of proximate freedom, many of the owners have in measure forestalled that act, by allowing their negroes to shift for themselves, upon a monthly payment of four dollars, which is a great boon in a country where free labor is worth from twenty to thirty dollars a month. Then again, through a decree which obliges the owner to pay his slaves their quota, within fifteen days after the end of the each month, failing which the slaves are declared free, entire gangs have been liberated.

The emancipation act of 1880 provides for the gradual abolition of slavery in Cuba by yearly drawings to spread over several years. The first drawing will take place in May, 1885, and it is thought that if the emancipation of the negroes continues as it has done lately, there will be no necessity of going beyond a third drawing, or in other words, that in a much shorter period than that enacted by the Cortes, total emancipation will be an accomplished fact in the island of Cuba. This, however, is much too flattering a view to take of it.

As an illustration that, under free labor, the production of Cuba has nothing to fear in the future, it may be mentioned that to-day a Chinese contractor, with his sixty free men, will take off a crop as efficiently and with far more economy than a planter could do with two hundred negroes under the old hateful system of slavery, with the lash, and all its attendant horrors.

These facts will encourage Senhor Nabuco in the noble work in which he is engaged, and I heartily join in the welcome you have given him, and in wishing him complete success in his arduous undertaking.

For Mr. Hilliard's ministerial gown, there are various applications. The place is tempting. Rio Janeiro is a beautiful city, full of delight, and the Minister receives \$12,000 a year. No man could fill the place with more grace than Mr. Hilliard. He has given perfect satisfaction.—Washington correspondence of *Atlanta Constitution*.

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This company proposes to establish in this city and its suburbs, and in Niteroi, the same system of General Telephone Communication which is to-day so prominent a feature of commercial intercourse in New York, London and Paris. Under this system immediate and confidential verbal communication is had between any two residents of the territory covered, who may be subscribers.

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